

CHAPTER XI

INDUSTRY

In the early history of Wasatch County, industry was of two types. The first was that necessary to provide living essentials: food, shelter, and clothing. This type of industry has now largely disappeared from the scene and its gradual disappearance is one of the factors marking the end of the pioneer era. The second type of industry was that dependent upon the rich natural resources of the county and includes lumbering, stock raising, and mining. This chapter will trace the development of these two types of industry and their significance in the lives of the people of Wasatch County. We will first consider the pioneer industries.

CLOTHING

As has been earlier noted, most wearing apparel was homemade. The sheep herds of the county produced much good wool for clothing. William Aird was the community weaver in Heber and made cloth which was a combination of local wool and imported cotton yarns. The leather for shoes was supplied by a tannery built in 1872.

FLOUR MILLING

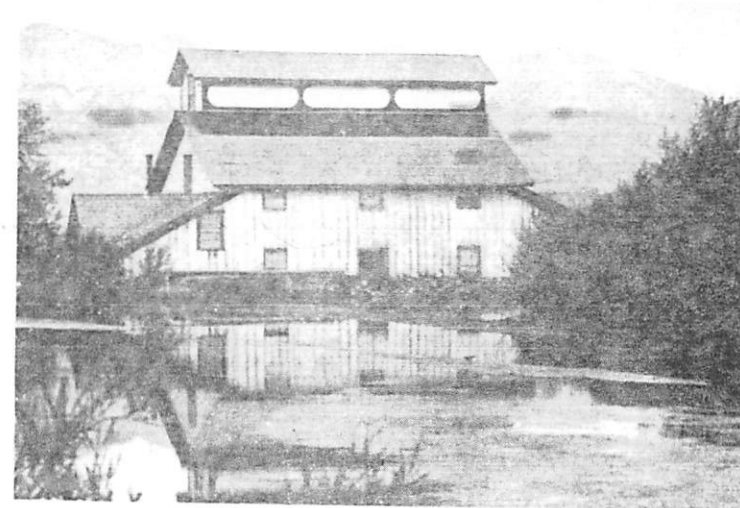
Initial attempts at grain raising in the county produced a harvest of partially shriveled wheat in September 1859. This wheat and the harvest of the next two years had to be arduously hauled to Provo for grinding. Occasional relief was had by resorting to grinding with coffee mills or simply boiling the whole wheat. "Mush, mush, mush was all we had in those days," said John Crook.¹

¹"History of Wasatch County," *op. cit.*, p. 12.

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William Reynolds set up a mill in the winter of 1861. He hired John Jordan to cut a pair of small burrs which were then set in a frame. This in turn was run by the



Early Flour Mill

horse power of a threshing machine. Each family could only get half a bushel of grain ground at a time into what was called chopped feed or graham flour. The grist mill ran day and night to supply everyone.

The flour turned out by Reynolds' mill was soon supplemented by that from John Van Wagoner's grist mill, which was built on the Snake Creek in the winter of 1861-62. Later, flour mills were built by Brigham Young, Jr., in 1865, and by Mark Jeffs.

CHEESE

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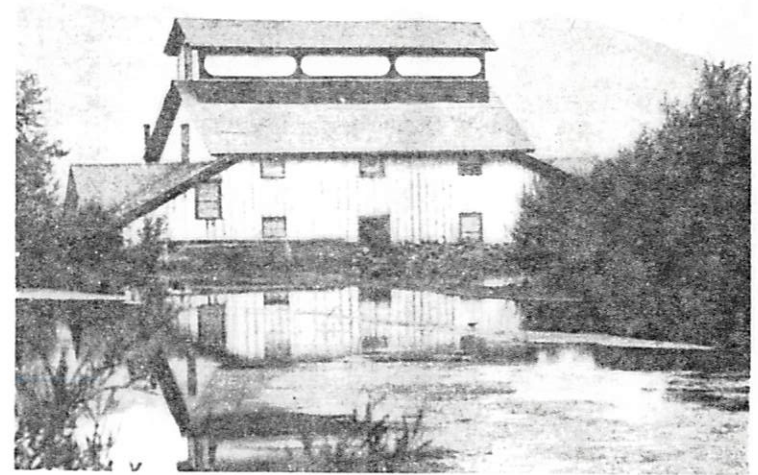
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"Under Wasatch Skies"

JAMES ROSS AND
SARAH CATHARINE
PROVOST ROSS



Sarah Catharine Provost was the youngest daughter of Luke and Julia Ann Wheeler Provost. She was born May 28, 1854 at Newark, New Jersey. On July 8, 1896 she was married to James Ross. They were the parents of two children, James Isaac Ross who married Fannie Jane Young and Emma Ross, who died as a young girl. Sarah died March 17, 1919, at Vernal.

HUSBAND

Born _____ Place _____

Chr. _____ Place _____

Marr. _____ Place _____

Died _____ Place _____

Bur. _____ Place _____

HUSBAND'S FATHER _____

HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES _____

WIFE

Born _____ Place _____

Chr. _____ Place _____

Died _____ Place _____

Bur. _____ Place _____

WIFE'S FATHER _____

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS _____

SEX M F	CHILDREN <small>List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth</small> Given Names SURNAME	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN			DATE OF FIRST MARRIAGE TO WHOM	WHEN DIED DAY MONTH YEAR
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN	COUNTY	STATE OR COUNTRY		
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									

SOURCES OF INFORMATION
#BHM 376

OTHER MARRIAGES

Husband _____

Wife _____

Ward Examiners: 1. _____ 2. _____

Stake or Mission _____

NAME & ADDRESS OF PERSON SUBMITTING SHEET

RELATION OF ABOVE TO HUSBAND _____

RELATION OF ABOVE TO WIFE _____

FOUR GENERATION SHEETS FOR FILING ONLY
YES ☐ NO ☐

DATE SUBMITTED TO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

LDS ORDINANCE DATA

BAPTIZED (Date)	ENDOWED (Date)	SEALED (Date and Temple)
HUSBAND		WIFE TO HUSBAND
WIFE		CHILDREN TO PARENTS

NECESSARY EXPLANATIONS

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STOCK NO.

ENTER ALL DATA IN THIS ORDER:
DATES: 14 Apr 1794

PLACES: Sharon, Windsor, Vt.

To indicate that a child is an ancestor of the person submitting the sheet, place an "X" behind the number pertaining to that child.



HUSBAND	
Born _____	Place _____
Chr. _____	Place _____
Marr. _____	Place _____
Died _____	Place _____
Bur. _____	Place _____
HUSBAND'S FATHER _____	
HUSBAND'S MOTHER _____	
OTHER WIVES _____	

WIFE	
Born _____	
Chr. _____	
Died _____	
Bur. _____	
WIFE'S FATHER _____	
WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS _____	

SEX	List each c
M	Given N.
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	

SOURCES OF INFO

Tannery
see Smith
file for
Eph & Nancy
Smith 3p list
see Tanners
of leather for
FG 5

WIFE'S MOTHER _____	
TOWN _____	
EPHRAIM AND NANCY ELIZABETH BETHERS SMITH	
 	
Ephraim Smith was born in September, 1833, in Tennessee, son of Richard and Diana Bragtal.	
He married Nancy Elizabeth Bethers on September 28, 1852, and they were parents of 12 children.	
Ephraim died on December 28, 1898.	
Nancy died on September 4, 1931.	
She was a daughter of Zadock S. and Sarah Collins Bethers. She moved to Council Bluffs and was there six years before leaving for Utah in the fall of 1852 with her parents in the Joseph Cuthouse company.	
Sarah Collins Bethers, the mother, was a weaver, so she brought her spinning wheel and looms, also wool, yarn and thread. Sarah and her daughters, Mary Jane and Nancy Elizabeth, carded the wool, spun thread and wove cloth from which clothing for all the family was made. <u>Pioneers around St. George planted cotton and flax from seed they brought with them, and they sent some of these products to the weavers in Heber to be used in weaving cloth.</u>	
Nancy's sister, Mary Jane, and Asa B.	

Husband	Wife
Ephraim	481
York were married on her (Nancy's) wedding day, at Provo, by James E. Snow.	
Ephraim's parents crossed the plains to Utah in 1850. His mother walked the entire distance, because she was afraid of buffalo stampeding through the wagon trains.	
In 1860, Ephraim and Nancy, with their family, moved to Heber City, where they built a log cabin and later a large cabin used as a fort to protect women and children. Indians were very bad. They stole cattle and horses and then brought them back, demanding money for them. They stole and returned one of Ephraim's horses five times. The last time he refused to give them money.	
This condition finally became intolerable, so the matter was taken up with Brigham Young by Ephraim Smith, who stated that it was absolutely necessary that something be done to stop this depredation. A meeting between the whites and Indians was called. Chief Tabby and some of his braves came in and camped at Ephraim's place. Nancy and other women cooked for them.	
At the meeting the Indians were told that if they did not stop stealing, the settlers would have to call out the soldiers and the Indians would be killed. The Indians agreed not to steal any more and the "peace pipe" was passed to all present.	
Ephraim had the first and only tannery in Heber. He learned his trade in Tennessee before coming to Utah. He stripped bark from oak trees in the canyons near Heber and hauled to the tannery. <u>He used the Hopper mill to grind the bark, the first mill used to grind flour for the Smiths and others and was the only flour mill for some time.</u> Mr. Smith employed five men at his tannery, making harnesses and shoes and mending shoes. He also made fiddles and violins.	
When the Salt Lake Temple was started he sent a team to help in the work and he hauled sandstone rock from Heber for the foundation. He used a spirit level to level a canal which brought water from Provo River into the valley for irrigation purposes.	
They were the parents of 12 children: David Ephraim, Hetty Esther Ann, Millie Jane, Joseph Marion, William Albert, James Andrew, Sarah Dinah, Thomas Edward,	



The old Smith home in Heber where many dances were held during the years on the second floor. *p 231*

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Nancy's sister, Mary Jane, and Asa B.

Agnes Elizabeth, Phoebe Jannett, Mary May and George Richard.



JOHN HALMAH VAN
WAGONER JR. AND CLARISSA
TAPPEN VAN WAGONER

Son of Halmah I. Van Wagoner and Mary Van Houten Van Wagoner.

Born September 1, 1811, at Wanague, New Jersey.

Married Eliza Smith

Married Clarissa Tappen

Married Elizabeth Young in 1856

Married Agnes Melbrose

Married Zella Allen

Died September 1889 in Provo.

Eliza Smith, born September 10, 1815, in New Jersey. She died young, September 15, 1840.

Clarissa Tappen, daughter of George Tappen and Sarah Drew Tappen. Born November 24, 1824, in Pompton, New Jersey. Died January 1914, at Midway.

Elizabeth Young, married in 1856.

John Halmah, by trade, was a carpenter, cabinetmaker, mill wright, wheel wright, and skilled mechanic.

He married five women, and from these marriages had nineteen children.

Eliza died while her children were very young, leaving John to care for the children.

He met Clarissa Tappen in Pompton, New Jersey.

Clarissa and John Halmah were married by a Dutch Reform Minister by the name of Doolittle. After they came to Utah they had their endowments in Salt Lake.

They first heard Mormonism at a meet-

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ing in Meads Basin near Pompton, New Jersey. They were baptized in 1842. Shortly after, they moved to Nauvoo.

While in Nauvoo, they helped in the activities of the Church. They were acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and his wife, Emma. Clarissa visited in their home frequently.

Before leaving New Jersey they sold their property. They gave \$500.00 to the church as their contribution to help finance the immigrants.

They moved from Nauvoo to Winter Quarters in David Wood's Company.

They returned to Iowa to secure an outfit with which to continue the journey to Salt Lake valley. At Honey Creek, Iowa, he built a grist mill.

A daughter, Hester, became very ill and died. Her father made a casket of shingles and her mother made her clothes. With sad hearts they laid her to rest under a chestnut tree.

In the meantime, his father and mother who had accompanied them to Winter Quarters became ill with cholera and died. There were 600 of the Saints who died of the disease at that time. This was during the year 1847. John Halmah and his brother-in-law, Jno. Fairbanks made coffins from their wagon box and laid them to rest.

Before leaving new Jersey they sent many of their belongings with Samuel Brannon around Cape Hope to San Francisco, California. With them was a small grist mill John Halmah had made. The goods were to be transported overland to Salt Lake. They never saw any of those things again.

Clarissa said that they were often very weary from traveling, but when the evening meal was over and the children were in bed they sang and danced. Her favorite song, "Come, Come, Ye Saints," gave them the courage that no other song did. It buoyed them up until the journey's end. They arrived in Salt Lake September 20, 1852.

In 1856 he married his third wife, Elizabeth Young. Seven children were born to them.

His fourth wife was Agnes Melbrose, and his fifth wife was Zella Allen. Neither of these wives had children.

John Halmah built flour mills at Fort Supply, Fort Bridger, at Payson for Charles B. Hancock, at Provo for Joseph Kelton (this was later known as the Tanner Mills), at Mt. Pleasant, and one at Midway.

In 1861 he moved his families to Midway to the lower settlement. It was here that he built the first grist mill in the county. He hauled the granite from American Fork, using two yokes of oxen. It was a long, slow journey with the heavy granite. He used a hammer and chisel to carve the mill wheel and make it round.

This same wheel is now on the top of the Daughters of the Pioneers monument in Midway.

They lived in the fort at Midway when the Indians became troublesome.

While living in Midway he helped build homes. At this time he paid one dollar and twenty cents a pound for nails. He built a home for President Hatch at Heber. He also made furniture for this home. He furnished his wives' homes with furniture he had made.

On several occasions he furnished oxen and wagons to bring immigrants from the Missouri River to Utah. He not only designed and made furniture but he built many wagons.

John Halmah and his sons, David, William and Henry, were musicians. John Halmah and David furnished music for dances in the early days. He made a musical instrument called the dulcimer.

He was a friend to the Indians. They would do anything for him. He was a kind, good father to his families, and was a good neighbor. He was a member of the High Priest Quorum and died faithful to the gospel.

Clarissa's home at first was a log room with an attic above. She had many mouths to feed but did this by cooking her meals on a griddle bake oven and by hanging kettles over a fireplace. Food was scarce, but the boys helped by catching fish.

She sewed and worked by candle light. Sewing was all done by hand.

With all the hardships she never complained. She was always jovial and happy. She had a strong testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel.

She taught the gospel to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was a loving, kind mother and neighbor. She was hospitable and charitable.

Her mind was keen to the very last. She enjoyed living. She lived to be 90 years, two months and ten days old.

Children of John Halmah Van Wagoner and Eliza Smith:

DULCIMER, *DUHL suh muhr*, is an ancient musical instrument. It was probably invented in Persia or Arabia. It consists of a flat box with metal wires stretched across the top. These wires are attached to adjustable tuning pegs on one side of the instrument. The player strikes the strings with small wooden or cork-covered mallets. A keyboard was later substituted for the hammers to produce the *clavichord* (see **CLAVICHORD**). The piano developed from this instrument.

CHARLES B. RIGHTER

DU LHUT. See **DULUTH**, **SEUR**.

The Dulcimer is used by many Gypsy bands in Central Europe. The player produces harsh tones by striking wires with wooden mallets.

Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism



